

Message Text

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PRS-01 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 AID-20 ACDA-19

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2035

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

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AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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7/13 AF
7TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG
III MAF
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 6922

JOINT EMBASSY/DAO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, CB
SUBJECT: KHMER REPORT - JULY 10, 1973

GENERAL

1. KMER BOTH IN PHNOM PENH AND PEKING WERE THIS WEEK PREOCCUPIED WITH PROSPECTS FOR PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. WHILE SIHANOUK ON HIS RETURN TO CHINA VOCIFEROUSLY AFFIRMED HIS OPPOSITION TO NEGOTIATIONS, THE GKR LAUNCHED A NEW PEACE INITIATIVE, CALLING FOR AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE AND INVITING TALKS WITH "THE OTHER SIDE". REPORTS THAT HENRY KISSINGER WILL TRAVEL TO PEKING AND MIGHT MEET SIHANOUK PROVOKED COMMENT FROM BOTH THE GKR PRESS AND SIHANOUK. MILITARY ACTIVITY REMAINED AT A HIGH LEVEL IN THE CAPITAL CITY REGION WITH THE ENEMY MAKING GAINS BOTH SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH ALONG ROUTE 3 AND NORTH OF THE CITY ON ROUTE 6. FANK, ON THE OTHER HAND, WAS ABLE TO REOPEN ROUTES 4 AND 5. ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT, THE GKR MADE SOME ADMINISTRATIVE PROGRESS IN DEALING WITH THE RICE CRISIS WHICH HAS ALSO BEEN ALLEVIATED BY FURTHER DELIVERIES OVER THE NEWLY REOPENED ROUTES.

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2. THE GKR LAUNCHED A MAJOR PEACE INITIATIVE ON JULY 6 WHEN FOREIGN MINISTER LONG BORET ISSUED A 6-POINT DECLARATION CALLING FOR AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE AS WELL AS "TALKS WITH A DELEGATION OF KHMER OF THE OTHER SIDE AT A PLACE TO BE MUTUALLY AGREED UPON FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACHIEVING A CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AND NATIONAL RECONCILIATION". OTHER POINTS IN THE DECLARATION URGE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 20 OF THE JANUARY 27, 1973

PARIS AGREEMENT WHICH PROVIDES FOR WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES FROM KHMER TERRITORY, REQUEST FOR REACTIVATION OF THE ICC TO SUPERVISE APPLICATION OF ARTICLE 20, AND APPEAL TO THE SIGNATORY NATIONS TO THE FINAL ACT OF PARIS AND TO THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL TO ASSIST IN OBTAINING APPLICATION OF ARTICLE 20 BY ALL CONCERNED PARTIES. IN THE QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD WHICH FOLLOWED PRESENTATION OF THE DECLARATION TO THE PRESS AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS LONG BORET NEITHER AFFIRMED NOR EXCLUDED THE POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH SIHANOUK OR HIS REPRESENTATIVES AND LEFT OPEN THE JUDGMENT AS TO WHETHER SIHANOUK AND THE GRUNK IN FACT REPRESENT THE IN-COUNTRY INSURGENCY.

3. THE PRESIDENT'S OF THE SENATE AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, BOTH OF WHICH ARE AT PRESENT IN A PROLONGED RECESS, ISSUED A STATEMENT SUPPORTING THE 6-POINT PEACE DECLARATION AND APPEALING TO ALL PARLIAMENTARIANS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND IN THE UN TO HELP THE KHMER PEOPLE OBTAIN RESPECT FOR THEIR INDEPENDENCE, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND NEUTRALITY.

4. LOCAL REACTION TO THE NEW PEACE INITIATIVE HAS FOR THE MOST PART BEEN CAUTIOUS AND SUBDUED. THE OFFICIAL PRESS PROCLAIMED THAT THE MOVE IS INDICATIVE OF THE GKR'S SINCERITY AND DESIRE FOR PEACE BUT STRONGLY DOUBTED THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE WOULD AGREE TO WITHDRAW THEIR TROOPS FROM KHMER SOIL UNLESS OBLIGED TO DO SO BY MILITARY FORCE.

5. THE GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED KHMER LANGUAGE PRESS HAS REACTED STRONGLY TO REPORTS OF A POSSIBLE MEETING NEXT MONTH BETWEEN KISSINGER AND SIHANOUK IN PEKING.
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ANY SUCH MEETING, IT HELD, WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO AN AMERICAN ADMISSION THAT IT IS COMMITTING AGGRESSION AGAINST CAMBODIA AND IS THUS A TRAP IN WHICH SIHANOUK INTENDS TO ENSNARE THE U.S. THE PRESS HAS ALSO HIT HARD ON THE NEED FOR CONTINUED U.S. AIR SUPPORT AFTER AUGUST 15 (INCLUDING BOMBING OF NORTH VIETNAM) WHICH IS SEEN AS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE OTHER SIDE.

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2036

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

6. THE GKR HAS CONTACTED THE CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND THE MEMBERS OF THE NOW DORMANT INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMMISSION IN AN EFFORT TO PROMOTE REACTIVATION OF THE ICC IN CAMBODIA. FOREIGN MINISTER LONG BORET PROPOSES TO VISIT THE CAPITALS OF THE 5 COUNTRIES INVOLVED (BRITAIN, THE SOVIET UNION, POLAND, INDIA AND CANADA) IN THE NEAR FUTURE IN ORDER TO PURSUE THIS INITIATIVE.

7. PRESIDENT AMIN OF UGANDA SENT PRESIDENT LON NOL A MESSAGE ON JULY 3 CASTIGATING HIM FOR REQUESTING U.S. AIR SUPPORT TO WIPE OUT HIS FELLOW COMPATRIOTS AND URGING HIM TO "HEED THE CALL AND ADVICE OF THE PEACE LOVING LEADERS IN THE WORLD AND NEGOTIATE A RECONCILIATION WITH PRINCE SIHANOUK". A COPY OF THE MESSAGE WAS PASSED BY AMIN TO THE U.S. EMBASSY IN UGANDA. THERE HAS BEEN NO KNOWN REACTION FROM LON NOL.

GRUNK/FUNK

8. ON HIS RETURN TO PEKING JULY 5 AFTER A 56-DAY VISIT TO TQQ AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, SIHANOUK WAS GREETED WITH A SUBSTANTIAL SHOW OF CHINESE SUPPORT. BEFORE THE INEVITABLE WELCOME BANQUET, CHOU-EN-LAI MET WITH AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS, COMPLAINED ABOUT U.S. CONFIDENTIAL

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CAMBODIA BOMBING AND REITERATED CHINA'S SOLID SUPPORT FOR GRUNK. ASKED WHAT ASSURANCES EXIS THAT THE DRV WOULD NOT USE CAMBODIA AS A STAGING AREA FOR ATTACKS AGAINST THE GVN IF THE BOMBING ENDS AND THE U.S. COMPLETELY WITHDRAWS, CHOU-EN-LAI ASSERTED THAT THE KHMER WOULD FORBID FOREIGN INTEREENCE IN THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND COMPLY WITH ARTICLE 20 OF THE PARIS ACCORDS. PEOPLES DAILY CAREFULLY MAINTAINED FLEXIBILITY

ON SETTLEMENT OF THE CAMBODIAN CONFLICT, AVOIDED DISCUSSION OF POSSIBILITIES OR IMPOSSIBILITIES OF NEGOTIATIONS AND SPECIFICALLY FAILED TO GIVE A CHINESE OPINION AS TO THE UTILITY OF SIHANOUK'S FIVE POINTS FOR A CAMBODIAN SETTLEMENT.

9. ON ARRIVAL IN PEKING SIHANOUK STATED THAT HE QTE ABSOLUTELY UNQTE REFUSES TO MEET HENRY KISSINGER DURING THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO CHINA. PRESS SOURCES, HOWEVER, SAY THAT THE PRINCE MODIFIED HIS POSITON IN AFTER-CEREMONY CONVERSATION BY ADDING THAT TALKS WOULD NOT BE HELD "WHILE THE BOMBING WAS GOING ON".

10. CHOU-EN-LAI'S BANQUET PRODUCED A NOW STANDARD HARD-LINE SIHANOUK PRESENTATION EMPHASIZING THEMES COVERED DURING HIS TRIP. HE ESPECIALLY STRONGLY DENOUNCED ASSERTIONS THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOW UNDERWAY. THE PRINCE AGAIN RAISED CPNLAF NEED FOR ARMS AND AMMUNITION (SEE JULY 3 KR FOR EARLIER MENTION OF THIS PROBLEM) AND APPEALED TO QTE FRIENDLY AND FRATERNAL COUNTRIES UNQTE TO GIVE THE NEEDED MATERIEL, ESPECIALLY AMMO. HE CLAIMED THAT SUCH GIFTS WOULD NOT VIOLATE ARTICLE 20, NOW THOROUGHLY AND SOLELY VIOLATED BY THE USG BUT WOULD BE AN ACT OF JUSTICE. SIHANOUK RAISD CPNLAF CONTROLLED TERRITORY TO 91 PERCENT, A ONE PERCENT GAIN, AND UTTERED A THREE POINT REQUIREMENT FOR ENDING THE WAR: (1) AN END TO U.S. AND OTHER HOSTILE MILITARY INTERVENTION; (2) ELIMINATION OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC; (3) WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. AND PRO-U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL AND ALL NON-CAMBODIAN PERSONNEL SERVING U.S. QTE IMPERIALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM UNQTE.

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11. A JULY 7 AFP REPORT DATELINED BAMSKOK CITED INFORMED SOURCES AS STATING THAT SIHANOUK HAS DEMENDED THE EXILE OF SEVEN OR EIGHT KHMER FIGURES BEFORE HE WILL BEGIN ENGOTIATIONS. THE SOURCES ALSO SAID THAT DIRECT TALKS WITH THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE BY HIS PRIME MINISTER (SIC) KHIEU SAMPHAN, "THE PRINCE WOULD BE WILLING TO RETURN AS CHIEF OF STATE WITHOUT DIRECT ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS," THE SOURCES STATED. AFP SAW THE COMMENTARY AS A REPLY TO THE GKR JULY 6 PEACE INITIATIVE. (COMMENT: THIS REPORT TAKEN WITH THE 28 JUNE AFP ARTICLE FROM HANOI (KR OF 3 JULY) CONTRADICTS THE HARDLINE ISSUING FROM LEADING RUNK/FUNK PERSONALITIES. IT SUGGESTS EITHER A DIVERGENCE IN VIEW OR, MORE LIKELY, A SEPARATE GRUNK/FUNK LINE WHICH CAN BE EASILY CUT OR

REELED IN DEPENDING ON WHAT IT HOOKS.)

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GRUNK/FUNK (EXTERNAL)

13. SIHANOUK'S EMBASSY IN SENEGAL CLAIMED THAT THE GAMBIA HAS DECIDED TO RECOGNIZE GRUNK AND ATTRIBUTED THE DECISION TO A JULY 4 VISIT BY GRUNK AMBASSADOR TO SENEGAL CHAN YOURAN WHO GAVE THE GAMBIAN PRESIDENT A LETTER FROM SIHANOUK.

14. GRUNK/FUNK SEATING AT THE ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT SEEMS CERTAIN AND WILL APPARENTLY NOT BE ACTIVELY OPPOSED BY NEAR NEIGHBOR NEUTRAL AND HITHERTO GKR SUPPORTERS INDONESIA, MALAYSIA, AND SINGAPORE. NEIGHBORING LAOS' SOUVANNA PHOUMA SIDESTEPED THE SEATING QUESTION BY TELLING AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE'S CHARGE THAT THE ISSUE IS COMPLICATED AND HOPING FOR PROGRESS ON RESOLVING KHMER PROBLEMS BY SUMMIT TIME.

ECONOMIC

15. AFTER CONSIDERABLE PRODDING THE GKR HAS FORMED AN INTERMINISTERIAL RICE COMMITTEE WHICH IS TO COORDINATE ALL RICE ACTIVITY. IT IS CHAIRED BY THE MINISTER OF PAPLAN AND WILL INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, PUBLIC WORKS, DEFENSE, INTERIOR, COMMERCE, FINANCE, AGRICULTURE, SONEXIM, AND SORAPA. THE EMBASSY IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH THE COMMITTEE WHEN IT HOLDS ITS FIRST MEETING ON JUNE 11.

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16. ROUTE 4, ROUTE 5 AND THE MEKONG ARE OPEN. RICE IS BEGINNING TO MOVE DOWN FROM BATTAMBANG IN SMALL AMOUNTS. SINCE ROUTE 4 WAS REOPENED ON JULY 8 ONE RICE SHIPMENT HAS BEEN RECIEVED IN PHNOM PENH.THIS WILL PROBABLY BE THE LAST ROUTE 4 CONVOY UNTIL 5,500 TONS OF PL 480 RICE ARRIVES

IN KOMPONG SOM ON JULY 15. THE FIRST MEKONG CONVOY CARRYING VIETNAM RICE ARRIVED IN PHNOM PENH ON JUNE 9. ONE VESSEL ACCOMPANYING THE CONVOY (WITH 800 M/T OF RICE FROM KOMPONG SOM), HOWEVER, WAS HIT BY ENEMY FIRE, WENT AGROUND AND BURNED. THE NEXT MEKONG CONVOY IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE JUNE 12 WITH 7,000-9,000 M/T OF RICE FROM VIETNAM.

17. THE GKR RICE AIRLIFT TO ISOLATED SVAY RIENG, KOMPONG THOM AND KOMPONG CHAM HAS GOT OFF TO AN UNCERTAIN START. REPORTS INDICATE THAT RICE FLIGHTS FROM BATTAMBANG TO KOMPONG THOM ARE ADEQUATE; HOWEVER, FLIGHTS TO SVAY RIENG AND KOMPONG DCHAM ARE LAGGING AT LEAST IN PART BECAUSE OF POOR COORDINATION AMONG THE RESPONSIBLE GKR AGENCIES. THIS WILL BE ONE OF THE FIRST ORDERS OF BUSINESS FOR THE GKR RICE COMMITTEE TO TACKLE.

18. ON JULY 9 THERE WERE AN ESTIMATED 10,596 M/T OF RICE IN STOCK IN PHNOM PENH OR 19 DAYS SUPPLY.

19. THE GKR ANNOUNCED NEW POL PRICE INCREASES RANGING FROM 12 TO 33 PERCENT EFFECTIVE JULY 4. THE NEW PRICES REPRESENT A MINIMUM EFFORT BY THE GKR TO LIVE UP TO THEIR PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED PRICING POLICY AND REFLECT THE HIGHER EXCHANGE RATE AND WORLD PRICES.

MILITARY

20. ON JULY 8 FANK REOPENED ROUTE 4, TEMPORARILY CUT BY INSURGENT FORCES ON JULY 4, NORTHEAST OF KOMPONG SPEU. GOVERNMENT CLEARING ACTIVITIES CONTINUE NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE HIGHWAY.

21. TO THE NORTH, THE SITUATION REMAINS SERIOUS ALONG ROUTE 6. ENEMY ATTACKS ON JULY 9 RESULTED IN THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE LAST REMAINING FANK POSITION LEAVING THE
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INSURGENTS IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE HIGHWAY BETWEEN THE TONLE SAP RIVER AND THE ROUTE 6-7 JUNCTION AT SKOUN. THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF KOMPONG CHAM HAS BEEN ISOLATED SINCE 19 JUNE. REINFORCEMENTS PREVIOUSLY SLATED FOR ROUTE 6 WERE DIVERTED TO MEET THE INCREASING ENEMY THREAT SOUTHWEST OF PHNOM PEXNH. FANK CLEARING OPERATIONS ALONG THE MEKONG NORTHEAST OF THE CAPITAL ARE STALLED WITH THE ENEMY STILL IN CONTROL OF SOME 2 KM OF THE ROAD AND RIVER BANK.

22. SOUTHWEST OF THE CAPITAL, ENEMY PRESSURE INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY AGAINST FANK POSITIONS IN THE ROUTE 2-3 CONFLUENCE FORCING FANK'S WITHDRAWAL TO NEW DEFENSIVE POSITIONS NORTH OF THE PREK PHNAOT RIVER. AFTER CONSOLIDATING

THEIR GAINS, FURTHER ENEMY INITIATIVES ARE EXPECTED
NORTH OF THE RIVER.

23. NORTHWEST OF THE CAPITAL, ROUTE 5, CLOSED BY INSURGENT
FORCES ON JUNE 27 WAS RESECURED ON JULY 3 AGAINST LIGHT ENEMY
RESISTANCE. ENEMY FORCES REMAIN IN THE AREA AND WILL
PROBABLY RENEW INTERDICTION ATTEMPTS FOLLOWING THE WITH-
DRAWAL OF FIRST DIVISION.

24. A SPECIAL MEKONG RIVER CONVOY ARRIVED PHNOM PENH ON
JULY 7 AFTER ABANDONING ONE CARGO (RICE) SHIP WHICH HAD
BEEN GROUNDED BY ENEMY FIRE NORTH OF NEAK LUONG. A
REGULARLY SCHEDULED CONVOY, CARRYING POL AND MUNITIONS,
ARRIVED AT THE CAPITAL ON JULY 9 WITH THE LOSS OF ONE POL
SHIP.
SWANK

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